



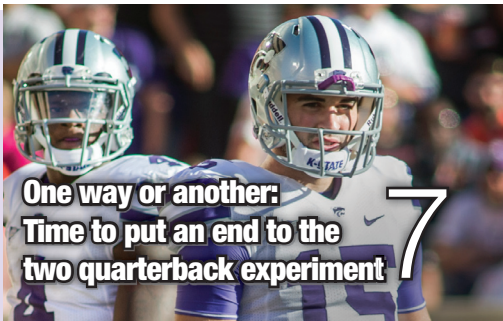
the collegian GAMEDAY GUIDE

friday, october 11, 2013

Bill Snyder Family Stadium @ 2:30 p.m.
K-STATE VS. Baylor



Lache Seastrunk: Baylor's star running back is living up to his own expectations **6**



One way or another: Time to put an end to the two quarterback experiment **7**



Check out the Powercat Pregame show on YouTube, starring Mike Stanton and Sean Frye

By the numbers

Adam Suderman
staff writer

70.5

Baylor's average score through its first four games
Baylor's offensive output this season has been nothing short of staggering. They are averaging 779.5 yards per game, including a Big 12 record of 864 yards last week against West Virginia. In each of the first four games, they have scored at least 28 points in the first quarter. They've only gone three-and-out once in their 61 possessions this season. Heading into Saturday's game, the Bears hold an eight-game winning streak that stretches back to Nov. 10 last season, when they ended K-State's national title dreams in Waco. Baylor has scored 70 points in three-straight games. The only team to go four in a row was Yale in 1886.

17

Baylor's rank in national defense
The talk of the Bears offense has drowned out a rather impressive season on defense. Not only does Baylor lead the country in tackles for loss (10.3), but they are also one of only three teams to be ranked top 10 in offense and top 20 in defense. They are 14th nationally in scoring defense, holding opponents to 16.3 points per game. They have also forced 10 turnovers this season. Four of the 10 turnovers have been returned for touchdowns.

91

Number of non-offensive scores for K-State since 1999
Performance on special teams and forcing key turnovers has been a major component for Bill Snyder's Wildcats. With the total touchdowns listed, K-State falls in first place nationally ahead of Virginia Tech (85), Texas (84) and Miami, Fla. (75). They added to the total last Saturday as defensive back Kip Daily returned a blocked field goal for a touchdown.

14

K-State's total turnovers through its first five games
There is no secret to how devastating turnovers have been for the Wildcats. Five turnovers against Oklahoma State last Saturday sent K-State beyond its final season total of last season (12). They also sit in a tie for 112th in turnovers gained with five. They rank 121st nationally in turnover margin, falling just in front of Louisiana Monroe and Southern Mississippi.

126

Number of home wins for K-State since 1990
After two losses on the road to begin conference play, the Wildcats will hope that the confines of Bill Snyder Family Stadium will add some relief. They hold a 62-24 record in conference games while playing at home. 24 of those wins have come since Snyder's return in 2009.

High-flying Bears land in Manhattan



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

K-State sophomore quarterback **Daniel Sams** tries to escape the pocket against Oklahoma State on Saturday.

John Zetmeir
assistant sports editor

The K-State Wildcats looked heartbroken and demoralized last season as they walked off the field in Waco, Texas. The Wildcats were the No. 1 team in the country going into the game with a perfect 10-0 record. The path to an appearance in the national title game seemed clear, but Baylor had other ideas. The Bears' offense looked explosive and was simply too overwhelming for the K-State defense as they pulled one of the biggest upsets of the 2012 season, winning 52-24.
The season before, the No. 15 Bears trotted into Manhattan to start conference play. Both teams were undefeated entering the game, and Baylor's Robert Griffin III had already emerged as the Heisman trophy favorite. The Wildcats stunned the Bears with a 36-35 win after trailing by nine points in the fourth quarter.
This Saturday's match up could write a new chapter in the saga of what appears to be a budding rivalry between the two Big 12 foes. Similar to 2011, the Bears will enter the game ranked No. 15 in the country while the Wildcats are once again unranked.
Every season, opposing teams know what they are going to get when facing Baylor. Their up-tempo offense has become their trademark. However, this season the Bears appear to have the whole "offense" thing down to a science.
Baylor enters Saturday's game averaging 70.5 points per game, easily the top offense in the country. The Bears average 11.3 points more per game than the sec-

ond-highest scoring offense, Oregon.
K-State head coach Bill Snyder has prepared for many offenses over his years, but said he isn't sure that he's ever seen a scarier offense to date.
"I could not tell you that I can think of an offense at this particular moment in time that is seemingly more prolific than Baylor's offense," Snyder said. "The numbers speak for themselves."
The Wildcats haven't played a game inside Bill Snyder Family Stadium in nearly a month. Home field advantage could play a big part in Saturday's contest. The Wildcats are 2-1 at home so far this season, and they are undefeated against Baylor at home.
"It's a great environment, as all are in the Big 12," said Baylor head coach Art Briles, according to baylorbears.com. "Anywhere you go on the road, you're in a different environment, and I don't know if tough is the right word — its just different. You have to change a few things. We had a tough game up there two years ago where they came back and won the football game when we had a good opportunity to take advantage of winning a tough road game, but fortunately we're back with another opportunity."
Another element to this newly vamped Baylor team is the success they have had this season on the defensive side of the ball. This season the Bears are No. 14 in scoring defense, allowing just 16.3 points per game. Last season, the Baylor defense was one of the worst in the country going into their game with K-State, but they found success in new tactics.
"They ran a lot of blitzes, a lot of looks

that we did not game plan for," junior center BJ Finney said. "They ran a little bit differently than we had prepared for. Obviously, that is good for their defense."
Many questions still loom over K-State's offense, as they might be without their top two receivers for the second week in a row. Nothing has been said about wide receivers Tramaine Thompson, who was sidelined last week against Oklahoma State, and Tyler Lockett, who left before half-time with an injury to his leg, but it could be tough for the Wildcats to have success without those two on the field. The pair are the most experienced of the receiving corp and are also the Wildcats' top return men.
Junior quarterback Jake Waters is once again listed as the starter on the depth chart for the Wildcats. Last week, Waters took the first snap before being substituted out for sophomore Daniel Sams, who ran the offense for the majority of the game. Both quarterbacks have been turnover prone this season, but if the Wildcats plan to control the clock, Sams might be the best option against Baylor.
It might not matter who the Wildcats play at quarterback this Saturday if they continue to turn the ball over. Another factor will be penalties. K-State has committed 20 penalties in the last two games. Baylor has also had a problem with penalties so far this season, as they have been flagged 36 times through their first four games.
For K-State to have a shot against the Bears, they'll have to focus on taking care of the ball and limiting mistakes. Even if the Wildcats are firing on all cylinders, Baylor will present a very tough challenge.

Analyzing Baylor on both sides of the ball



Charlie Niebergall | AP Photo

Baylor coach **Art Briles** looks on during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Iowa State, Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009, in Ames, Iowa. Iowa State won 24-10.

Austin Earl
staff writer

The Baylor Bears are an elite football team so far in 2013. The offense is on pace to be record breaking. If the season ended today, the Bears would break the record for most points per game and most yards per game in a season. They're currently first in the NCAA in both of those categories with 70.5 points per game and 779.5 yards per game. The defense gives up only 16.3 points per game. That's good enough to rank 14th in FBS competition.
However, the Bears have not

played any team close to being ranked in the top 25 yet. The best team they've played is West Virginia, who is 3-3. The Bears also have not been challenged to respond when the clock is winding down and the score is still close. Baylor has won by an average of 54 points this season. The smallest lead the Bears have held at halftime this year is 38 points.
Baylor broke the all-time Big 12 record with 864 yards of offense against West Virginia. Even more staggering, some of the offensive starters didn't even take a snap in the second half. The offense gained 369 yards in the first quar-

ter and 617 total in the first half. That is more yards in a quarter or half, respectively, than any team has had in the past 10 years.
On offense, the Bears have multiple key weapons.
Bryce Petty, junior quarterback, is the leader of the offense. He has passed for 1,348 yards in four games, and completed 72.8 percent of his passes. The offense averages 14.7 yards every time he drops back to pass. He has also thrown for 10 touchdowns with just one interception.
Lache Seastrunk, junior running back, has been dominant on the ground for Baylor in 2013.

Seastrunk has ran for 589 yards and eight touchdowns this season. He is averaging an unfathomable 11.1 yards per carry. Seastrunk is second in the nation with 147.3 yards per game. He had 180 yards in the first half against West Virginia, including an 80-yard touchdown run. Baylor also has a good freshman running back in Shock Linwood, who has been great in mop-up duty. Linwood can come in to give Seastrunk a break, or play in the case of an injury.
Baylor also has two very good wide receivers for Petty to rely on. Statistically, junior Antwan Goodley is the better receiver of the duo. Goodley has 540 receiving yards on 25 receptions with five touchdowns this season. His counterpart, senior Tevin Reese, has shown to be just as good of a weapon. Reese has 425 receiving yards on 18 receptions. He's also put four touchdowns on the board.
No matter how many good skill position players a team has, no offense will put a lot of points on the board without a solid offensive line. Baylor has an offensive line anchored by All-American senior left guard Cyril Richardson. The Bears' line is experienced and has three seniors.
The Bears' offense can be simplified into one sentence: run the ball until the defense keys on the run, then play action pass. Against Buffalo, the Bears ran the ball with Seastrunk three straight times for 15 yards, then Petty threw to Reese for a 61-yard touchdown on a play action. This is a typical Baylor drive.
The Baylor defense has a couple of question marks, but has been good so far in 2013.
Junior linebacker Bryce Hager and senior linebacker Eddie Lackey are the heart of the Bears defense. They've combined for 57 total tackles. Lackey is a force behind the line of scrimmage as well, racking up five tackles for loss and two sacks. Junior defensive end Shawn Oakman has been great for the Bears, too. He has forced two fumbles, and made nine tackles for loss.

HEAD 2 HEAD

K-State vs. Baylor

Guest Columnist: Daniel Hill, sports editor, The Lariat
Sean Frye, sports editor, The Collegian



Sean Frye

Do you remember 2011, when the Baylor Bears were undefeated at 3-0 and looking like a dark horse national title contender? Then they stormed into Manhattan, where Robert Griffin III and company lost to the Wildcats 36-35, spoiling any title hopes the Bears had. Art Briles himself calls Manhattan the toughest environment in the Big 12. If the Baylor coach is intimidated by Bill Snyder Family Stadium, his players probably are as well. Baylor may be averaging 70.5 points per game, but anything can happen on the road. And Baylor hasn't gone on the road yet.



Baylor may have the best offense in the NCAA statistically. But who have the Bears really played? Wofford, Buffalo, Louisiana-Monroe and West Virginia aren't exactly stout defenses. In fact, they're pretty terrible on that side of the ball, so of course Baylor's up-tempo offense would be too much for them. Granted, K-State's defense hasn't been terrific this season either but there was noticeable progress made against Oklahoma State and its no-huddle spread offense last week. You've got Ryan Mueller, who's great at putting pressure on the quarterback, and a good secondary led by safety Ty Zimmerman. Zimmerman, by the way, missed last year's game, and many fans in Manhattan believe that K-State would've won the game had he been available.



All that proves is that Baylor has yet to face any adversity this season. West Virginia is not a good team, and they bested an Oklahoma State team that was already on its third road trip of the season. Baylor, on the other hand, hasn't left Waco all season, and playing on the road in the Big 12 is tougher than in possibly any other conference in the country. And K-State's record isn't indicative of the talent level this team has. The Wildcats have beaten themselves with penalties and turnovers. If the Wildcats can limit those — which they can against a weaker defense like Baylor — then that bodes well for Bill Snyder and his team.

Could it be that Baylor is just a really good team this year? Because the No. 2 Oregon Ducks also have not faced any adversity this season. The numbers that Baylor's offense is putting up this year are historic. The Bears are the top offense in the nation in both points per game (70.5) and yards per game (779.5). Against West Virginia, the Bears racked up 369 yards of offense in the first quarter and 617 yards in the first half. Both of those marks account for more than any team in any single quarter or half, respectively, in the last 10 years. Baylor broke an all-time Big 12 record with 864 yards against West Virginia. Petty leads the nation in pass efficiency (229.6) and yards per completion (20.12). Junior running back Lache Seastrunk rushed for 180 yards in the first half against West Virginia and is second in the nation averaging 147.3 yards per game. The offensive line boasts an All-American in senior left guard Cyril Richardson. Against Baylor's offensive juggernaut, K-State is 58th in scoring offense at 31.2 points per game and 50th in scoring defense allowing 24.4 points per game. Simply put, the Wildcats will have a difficult task in keeping up with Baylor's record-setting offense.



Daniel Hill



Comparing Positions: secondary will play big role



Spencer Low

S Terrell Burt vs. S Ty Zimmerman

After playing in all 13 games as a true freshman last season, Burt is now in his first season as a starter for Baylor. A year ago, he was one of only three true freshmen on the team to even play in a game, and the only one to play in all of them. This season, Burt has stepped into the starting role and performed right away, with 21 tackles and a 63-yard interception return against Louisiana-Monroe. Burt is beginning to look like a solid safety for the Bears, and is an important piece in not only their secondary, but their defense as well. Baylor's defense has allowed teams to complete a paltry 44.6 percent of their passes, while gaining just 2.5 yards per carry on the ground

this season, stellar numbers by any measure. While Burt may not be the only reason that the Baylor defense has found success this season, he is a key player for a team that is allowing only 16.2 points per game. For Zimmerman, the story is less about his growth as a player and more about what he has continuously shown in his time at K-State. Zimmerman is second on the team with 39 tackles and has one interception so far this season. The four-year starter at safety had to miss the Wildcats' loss at Baylor last season with an injury, and his presence in the secondary was sorely missed. The Bears ran all over K-State and their BCS title hopes. Zimmerman will get a chance to show how he can impact a big game, and he will have his hands full with a Baylor offense averaging over 70 points per game. **Edge:** Zimmerman. Many pointed to his absence last time the two teams met as a reason why the Bears came out on top. By no means was his absence the only culprit of the loss, but this time around he will be there to make some big plays for the Wildcats..

RB Lache Seastrunk vs. QB Daniel Sams

Seastrunk is nothing short of a monster with the ball in his hands. He has game-breaking speed that he exhibited with 185 yards on 19 carries in the last meeting between the two teams. His yards-per-carry av-

erage (11.1) is first in the nation this season. He is 14th in the nation in rushing yards (589), and his eight touchdowns have him tied for fifth nationally. These numbers are impacted by the fact that he hasn't played significantly in the second half because all their games had been decided by that point. He had an incredible amount

of hype coming into the 2013-2014 season and has delivered so far. The 5-10, 210 pound junior is licking his chops for another big game against the Wildcats. Sams is the best runner that the Wildcats have had so far, but his numbers are not as lofty as Seastrunk's. K-State's sophomore quarterback has 323

yards on 56 carries, good for 5.8 yards per carry. Compared to Seastrunk, those numbers may seem pedestrian, but he is eighth in the Big 12 in rushing yards, and has the most by a quarterback in the league. Sams is an elusive and slippery runner, he's hard to bring down

POSITIONS | pg. 8

Alan Clark

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POWERCAT

PROFILE

DANTE BARNETT

John Zetmeir
assistant sports editor

Dante Barnett saw action in every game last season as a freshman. When junior captain Ty Zimmerman went down with an injury against TCU, Barnett was thrust into a starting role as the No. 1 K-State Wildcats went on the road to play a struggling Baylor team. The Bears were firing on all cylinders that day as they raked up 580 yards of total offense and upset the top-ranked Wildcats 52-24. Despite having a career-high 14 tackles in the game, the pain of losing that night in Waco is something that Barnett has not forgotten.

"It was my first collegiate start, and it was my first time ever getting beat for a touchdown and as a result we lost the game, so I remember that game all the time," Barnett said.

As a kid Barnett made a new friend on his fifth grade football team in Tulsa, Okla., Tyler Lockett. The two became great friends as they grew together on and off the football field.

"When I first saw Dante, he was a tight end and running back at the same time but he was basically just an athlete. He played whatever position we needed

football together when they were fifth grade would now continue their growth together at the collegiate level.

As a true freshman, Lockett saw the field immediately while Barnett grey-shirted. During that time, Barnett was able to watch and grow from the sidelines and in practice. The following year, Barnett was primed to take on the role as a back-up defensive back, and see some playing time.

After his first career start, Barnett remained the starter for the Wildcats last regular season game of the 2012 season. This time, emotions were a little different when the final whistle was blown.

The Wildcats were Big 12 champions, and the two friends who grew up together were celebrating yet another championship together. Barnett finished the game with four tackles, and his long-time teammate Lockett had two catches for 73 yards and a touchdown. Despite their short time in the program, Lockett has already seen Barnett take great strides.

"I know his ball skills are great, I know he can tackle, but just being able to see him on the huge stage like this and be able to continue to do what he's been doing, and progressing day in and day

"I know his ball skills are great, I know he can tackle, but just being able to see him on the huge stage like this and be able to continue to do what he's been doing, and progressing day in and day out, I think it says a lot."

Tyler Lockett
K-State Wide Receiver

him to play in fifth grade," Lockett said. "Being able to see him from when I first met him to now, he's done a lot of great things. In high school he had like 13 or 14 interceptions in one season."

As high school standouts at Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa, Barnett and Lockett helped lead the school to a state title in 2010. Lockett was being recruited by many Big 12 schools, which helped Barnett as well. Barnett began to get in contact with former K-State coach Michael Smith, who was heavily recruiting Lockett.

"I talked to K-State more often when coach Michael Smith, the [former] receivers coach, would come to recruit Tyler and he would see me and we would talk a little bit," Barnett said.

Lockett committed during the football season of his senior year, while Barnett continued to explore his options. When it was all said and done, Barnett decided that he would join Lockett in Manhattan. Two friends who started playing

out, I think it says a lot," Lockett said.

Entering his sophomore season, Barnett was named a starter. It had been nearly nine months since his first collegiate start. Despite having seven total tackles and one interception against North Dakota State, the sophomore was part of the defensive unit that could not get the Bison offense off the field as North Dakota State drove 80 yards in eight and a half minutes to score the game winning touchdown.

The Wildcats have suffered two-straight losses to fall to a 2-3 record on the season with an 0-2 record in conference play. That Baylor team that Barnett faced in his first career start has not lost a game since that night in Waco when they defeated the top ranked Wildcats.

"We've lost the past two games so we are looking to get back on a winning streak so we feel that this could be the game that we can go and get that first victory to start our winning streak," Barnett said.

ANALYSIS | Bears CB Williams is the weak link

Continued from page 1

The weak link on the defense is cornerback Joe Williams. Williams gave up 197 yards and a touchdown to Alex Neutz, a Buffalo wide receiver, when the two teams played. Williams was burnt by Neutz for a 62 yard reception. Williams played 10 yards off of Neutz before the play, and

still allowed the receiver to run right by him. This is just one example, but Williams was beat badly. He struggles with fast receivers, like K-State's Tyler Lockett — thought it is questionable if Lockett will play Saturday.

By statistics alone, Baylor is a scary team to face for any defense. The film backs up the statistics, too. This team is fast,

physical, and hard to match up against.

The road to victory against Baylor begins in the trenches. Their offensive line has to be overwhelmed when run blocking, and not provide any space for the explosive Seastrunk. If the Bears' running game is shut down, it will greatly limit their passing game. Baylor's defense can be beat with a lot

of speed. As with any team, their defensive line and linebackers have to be dominated in the running game. When Baylor faces a team with good run blocking, fast receivers, and a good quarterback, the defense will give up a lot of points. But until Baylor sees a team that possesses all those qualities, they should continue to dominate.



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Keys to the Game: K-State needs to limit penalties



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

K-State head coach **Bill Snyder** watches warm-ups before the game against Oklahoma State last Saturday. In Tuesday’s press conference, Snyder said that Baylor’s offense is the scariest he’s seen in his decades of coaching.



Sean Frye

K-State Wildcats

Keep Baylor’s offense off the field

At this point, it’s no secret that the Baylor Bears offense is one of the best, if not the best, in the entire country. The two-headed monster of quarterback Bryce Petty and running back Lache Seastrunk run an up-tempo, no-huddle offense that puts

up 70.5 points per game while averaging 84.3 offensive plays per game.

It’s nearly impossible to completely stop the Baylor offense. So the best way to do so is to simply keep them off the field and control the time of possession.

“You need to sit on the ball and have a major amount of possession time but other things enter into it as well,” K-State head coach Bill Snyder said. “If we have the discipline not to have the turnovers and not to have the penalties, then that possession time would have won us the [Oklahoma State] ballgame.”

Limit penalties and turnovers

Last week against the Oklahoma State Cowboys, the Wildcats turned the ball over five times and

committed 12 penalties. That’s uncharacteristic of a Bill Snyder-coached team, and something the Wildcats have to limit against the Bears.

“We have to be a more disciplined football team and that encompasses the penalties and the turnovers,” Snyder said. “It is just a matter of doing things the appropriate way. There is a way to prevent most turnovers, maybe not all, but most. There is a way to prevent penalties, maybe not all as true in this ballgame, but for the most part there is a way to do that and it takes a great deal of focus.”

The Bears have 10 takeaways in just four games this year, so the defense is sure to pounce on any mistakes the Wildcats make. That’s why K-State has to keep their mistakes to an absolute minimum

against Baylor.

Baylor Bears

Rattle Daniel Sams and/or Jake Waters

Baylor’s pass rush is sure to play a huge role in Saturday’s game as they look to continue their run at a Big 12 title.

Sams and Waters have both failed to handle pressure in the backfield well this season, and it was particularly apparent against the Cowboys last week. Sams had three interceptions and a fumble, while Waters also fumbled the ball away.

The Bears rank seventh in the country in sacks per game at 3.5. So continuing to build on that trend will be huge for Baylor. Get ahead early to take the

crowd out of the game

Art Briles himself believes that Bill Snyder Family Stadium is one of the loudest places in college football.

“It’s a great environment as all are in the Big 12,” Briles said. “They’re all tough, including Floyd Casey. Anywhere you go on the road you’re in a different environment and I don’t know if tough is the right word — it’s just different.”

And with this week’s game being the first road game of the year for the Bears, the team has to be able to take an early lead in order to take the crowd out of equation.

“You just have to treat it the

same as if it were a home game,” Baylor linebacker Eddie Lackey said. “You know you are going to get the different elements such as the crowd yelling which will be tougher for the offense in particular. It’s just another one of those things where you have to be emotionally flexible, and when we go out there we just have to keep playing the same way that we have been.”

If the Bears let the Wildcats hang around, the raucous crowd could force Baylor into a costly mistake late in the game.

Sean Frye is a senior in electronic journalism. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

Check out the Powercat Pregame Show!

For all you need to know about upcoming K-State football games, watch the Collegian’s Powecat Pregame show featuring sports editor Sean Frye and managing editor Mike Stanton. Find it on kstatecollegian.com, the ECollegian YouTube channel, and our Twitter, Facebook, and Google Plus pages on Fridays.



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Heisman Watch, Week 7: Clemson's Boyd in the lead



Alabama senior quarterback AJ McCarron passed for 334 yards against Texas A&M, finding the end zone with four different receivers to give the Tide the edge in a 49-42 win on Sept. 14.



Week 7 of college football has arrived, and not much has changed at the top of the Heisman watch. K-State will become familiar with No. 6 on the list this weekend, whose stock may be rising the fastest of any player in the country. Can the Wildcats spoil another Heisman campaign like they did last year against Geno Smith and West Virginia? It's not impossible, but I wouldn't bet on it.

1. Tajh Boyd (QB, Clemson) – Boyd continued his stellar season in Clemson's 49-14 win over Syracuse, throwing for 453 yards and five touchdowns. His

personal statistics don't quite measure up to those of Fresno State's Derek Carr, Baylor's Bryce Petty or Louisville's Teddy Bridgewater, but he beat No. 7 Georgia and Aaron Murray. Carr's biggest win? Boise State. Petty's biggest win? West Virginia. Bridgewater's biggest win? Kentucky. Petty is the only of the three whose remaining schedule could even compare to Boyd's, which still has No. 6 Florida State and No. 14 South Carolina on it.

2. Marcus Mariota (QB, Oregon) – Mariota rebounded from an average showing – 11 for 25 for 114 yards – against California with a 16-of-27 performance for 355 yards and seven touchdowns – two rushing – against Colorado. No. 8 in total offense per game though seven weeks, Mariota gets a chance to perform against the Ducks' first ranked opponent this Saturday on the road against No. 16 Washington. His

schedule doesn't get easier after that either, with No. 11 UCLA and a road game against No. 5 Stanford in two of their next three games.

3. Aaron Murray (QB, Georgia) – Murray avoided a Heisman-ending loss to Tennessee when he tied the game up on a two yard touchdown pass with five seconds left in regulation on as the Bulldogs went on to win 34-31 in overtime. The senior completed 19-of-35 pass attempts for 196 yards and three touchdowns to help overcome an injury to Keith Marshall, who was starting in place of the injured star running back Todd Gurley. With a rising Missouri team coming to Athens, Ga., Saturday, Murray's load to carry won't get any lighter especially with Gurley described as doubtful for the game by Georgia head coach Mark Richt and Marshall missing the rest of the season with a knee surgery.

4. Johnny Manziel (QB, Texas A&M) – Manziel is coming off a bye week and is sitting at No. 6 in the NCAA in total offense at 360.6 yards per game. The Aggies will be on ESPN's primetime game Saturday against Ole Miss, who is coming off a loss to Auburn. I'm still not ready to sell off Manziel until his production drops off significantly or the Aggies lose again, but his late-season opportunities on the road against No. 10 LSU and No.25 Missouri probably couldn't overcome another loss like last year's Alabama win did.

5. Jameis Winston (QB, Florida State) – It's hard to ignore beating a ranked team 63-0, even if it is then No. 25 Maryland, whose best win is a 37-0 win over West Virginia. The freshman turned the Terapins' defense upside down with 393 passing yards on 23-of-32 pass attempts to go along with five touchdowns.

If Winston can engineer an upset win against Tajh Boyd's No. 3 Clemson Tigers in two weeks, talk of a second freshman Heisman winner in a row will increase in volume greatly.

6. Bryce Petty (QB, Baylor) – I'll admit, I wasn't totally sold on Baylor's offense after wins over Wofford, Buffalo and Louisiana-Monroe with offensive point totals of 69, 70 and 70, respectively. After the Bears topping every one of their previous three offensive onslaughts against a West Virginia team fresh off a win over No. 22 Oklahoma State, I lost all doubt. The Bears' 73-42 win over the Mountaineers included 864 yards of offense, a Big 12 record, 370 of which came from the junior Petty. Ranking No. 8 in the NCAA in total yards per game (352), Petty guides the No. 1 offense in the NCAA in terms of total offense (779.5), passing yards per game (432.3), and

scoring (70.5). Unless Baylor trips up against K-State Saturday in Manhattan, a city where the Bears are 0-4 all-time, they should enter their Nov. 7 matchup with No. 12 Oklahoma undefeated – barring a miracle upset from KU or Iowa State between the K-State and Oklahoma games.

7. AJ McCarron (QB, Alabama) – McCarron's 15-of-16 outing in Alabama's 45-3 win over Georgia State is a wash for me. He played almost flawlessly, but it was only for one half of football against a team without a win still, so I'm not overly impressed. However, the three-time national champion will stay on my list until he loses, gets injured or my word length gets cut down on the Heisman watch. Whatever comes first.

Corbin McGuire is senior in mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

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Big 12 Predictions: Red River rivalry set for renewal



NO. 12 OKLAHOMA SOONERS VS. TEXAS LONGHORNS

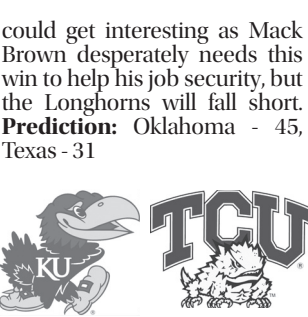
11:00 a.m. CDT, ABC

This has been one of the biggest rivalry games in college football history. The Red River Rivalry is not just a classic matchup for the Big 12, it is a highly viewed contest across

the country. As of now, the No. 12 Sooners are the highest ranked team in the Big 12. Despite an early struggle, Texas has looked poised in conference play as both teams enter the contest with undefeated conference records.

After emerging from an early quarterback controversy for the Sooners, junior Blake Bell has taken control of the starting job and looks primed for a big season. He has been a big factor for Oklahoma as they are coming off of two big wins against Notre Dame and TCU.

The Longhorns have not found much success against the Sooners since 2009, which marks the last year they defeated Oklahoma. While both teams score an average of roughly 32 points per game, the Longhorns' defense is allowing more than twice the amount of the Sooners defense. This one



KANSAS JAYHAWKS VS. TCU HORNED FROGS

11:00 a.m. CDT, FOX Sports Networks

The Horned Frogs have not looked as sharp as preseason polls might have predicted so far this season. With early losses to LSU, Texas Tech and Oklahoma, TCU is in desperate need of a win to put the air

back in their sails.

Kansas had higher expectations for this season than the past two. So far they are 2-2 with a win over an FBS team, something they had not done since 2011. Despite looking good early last week against Texas Tech, the Jayhawks imploded as they allowed the Red Raiders to score 54 unanswered points.

Even though TCU has a losing record this season, their defense has been the bright spot of the team. The Horned Frogs have not allowed a team to score more than 17 points in any of their last four games. With a struggling Kansas offense, it should be an easy victory for the Horned Frogs.

Prediction: TCU - 41, Kansas - 3



NO. 20 TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS VS. IOWA STATE CYCLONES

11:00 a.m. CDT, FOX Sports 1

As one of the biggest surprises in the Big 12 so far this season, Texas Tech remains alive in the competition to win the conference. Under new head coach Kliff Kingsbury, the Red Raiders have a perfect 5-0 record and appear to improve week in and week out.

Iowa State suffered a devastating loss to Northern Iowa of the FCS in week one, then followed that up with another loss to in-state rival Iowa the

following week. There has been some controversy surrounding the Cyclones' previous loss to Texas. The Cyclones should not hang their head over their struggles through the first half of the season so far, with bright spots on the offense with sophomore wide receiver Quenton Bundrage and junior running back Aaron Wimberly.

If the Iowa State defense can hold their own against the high-powered Texas Tech offense, the Cyclones could find themselves in a position to pull one of the first major upsets of the season. However, with the Red Raiders playing at home, the likelihood of that happening is slim to none.

Prediction: Texas Tech - 31, Iowa State - 21

John Zetmeir is a junior in electronic journalism. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

Big 12 Standings		
Team	Conference	Overall
Oklahoma	2-0	5-0
Texas Tech	2-0	5-0
Texas	2-0	3-2
Baylor	1-0	4-0
Oklahoma State	1-1	4-1
West Virginia	1-2	3-3
Kansas	0-1	2-2
Iowa State	0-1	1-3
Kansas State	0-2	2-3
TCU	0-2	2-3

Baylor Bears tailback Lache Seastrunk living up to his lofty expectations

Sean Frye
sports editor

"Big 12 championship, national title, Heisman Trophy winner. Why not?"

That's what Baylor Bears running back Lache Seastrunk said to reporters at Big 12 media days back in early August, when the Bears were just voted as the fifth-best team in the Big 12 pre-season poll.

Now heading into Saturday's matchup with the K-State Wildcats, the Bears are a perfect 4-0 and one of just three remaining undefeated teams in the Big 12. And Seastrunk is a big reason behind his team's success.

The Bears boast one of the nation's most prolific offenses, ranking first in total offense by over 100 yards, second in rushing and first in scoring.

Seastrunk himself ranks second in the country in rushing yards per game at 147.3, trailing only Andre Williams of Boston College. Keep in mind, Seastrunk is usually removed from games before the fourth quarter since Baylor has blown out every opponent they play.

Here's the thing though: Seastrunk knew he and the rest of his team was capable of all this long before anybody else.

In December 2012, Seastrunk told Steve Greenberg of Sporting News that he believed he was capable of winning the Heisman Trophy this season.

"I feel like there's no back who can do what I do," Seastrunk told Sporting News. "I know I'm the fastest

back in the country. I know I'm the best back in the country. Nobody's going to work harder. I'm going to win the Heisman. I'm going to win it in 2013. If I don't, I'm going to get very close."

Then at Big 12 media days, many reporters asked whether Seastrunk wanted to recant his statement.

But instead, he doubled down on his lofty predictions.

"Why should I regret it? I said it. You want me to take it back? People are going to be negative, they're always going to have their negative comments," Seastrunk said. "If I believe in my heart, it can happen."

"Big 12 championship, national title, Heisman Trophy winner. Why not?"

Lache Seastrunk
Baylor running back

While many perceive Seastrunk's words as cocky or out of line, the running back's head coach is actually one of his biggest supporters.

"He's always that way. Everybody thinks that he's just this guy with the big bold predictions," Art Briles said. "But if you're a pretty premier, elite athlete and I ask you if you think you're good enough to win the Heisman, I would want you to say 'yes sir.'"

While Seastrunk is certainly one to boost himself and his credentials as an elite running back, he never does it without crediting his offen-

sive line.

"If you watched the West Virginia game you saw (the offensive line) pushing bodies out of the way for me to do what I do," Seastrunk said. "In order for me to do well I have to thank the guys up front. They've been really good."

As the Bears put their 4-0 record to the test against the Wildcats, Seastrunk knows that playing in Bill Snyder Family Stadium for the first time in his career will be a unique experience, and one that he has to stay focused for.

"We will have to be more focused this week than we have ever been. We have to keep pushing forward," Seastrunk said.

As for Seastrunk's prediction, they may very well come true. The Bears look like a team that could run the table in the Big 12 and finish the season undefeated, which would surely put them in the hunt for the BCS National Championship game.

And Seastrunk is one of the premier players in the country and is proving himself worthy of Heisman Trophy consideration.

If you ask Briles, that's exactly where he wants his team and Seastrunk to be.

"He made one statement that I'm proud of," Briles said. "I don't want our guys thinking they're not great. We want them to be great."



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Time for K-State to make a choice at quarterback



Countless things went wrong for the K-State Wildcats, whose hopes of defending last year's conference title all but vanished, in their 33-29 loss to the Oklahoma State Cowboys. However, one thing clearly stood out for K-State: It's time to quit messing around with the two-quarterback system, and settle on one guy for the long haul.

Junior Jake Waters was again the starter for the Wildcats, but he came out after the first play and spent the majority of the game watching from the sideline. For the first time, sophomore Daniel Sams was trusted to put the team on his back and he kept K-State alive in a matchup that could easily have turned into a rout for the Cowboys. Sure, Sams made his fair share of mistakes, and it became painfully clear that he'll have to improve his downfield accuracy, but the offense looked better with him under center than it has all year.

There's no denying that Waters can throw the ball. His arm is a formidable weapon, and it's a shame to let it go to waste. But he simply isn't the best fit for a Bill Snyder offense. The Wildcats have never been an air-it-out team, and suddenly shifting to a system where Waters drops back and throws deep is not realistic. We've all seen Sams' ability to run the ball, and Saturday he proved he can move the chains with his arm as well. K-State has historically seen a lot of success with dual-threat quarterbacks, and Sams fits the profile better than Waters.

The constant platooning of quarterbacks doesn't have a positive effect on the rest of the offense, either. It's not easy for receivers to adjust to two completely different styles of play. Problems with the offensive line can also be traced back to this. Every starter on the line, which was a strength for last year's team, is back this season, but they've struggled with false start penalties. Getting and staying on the same page with one new quarterback is difficult enough, so it's no wonder the line is having issues with two.

Another thing to consider is that opposing defenses know the strengths and weaknesses of both Waters and Sams as well as we do. With the exception of Sat-



Quarterbacks **Daniel Sams** and **Jake Waters** shared snaps at Oklahoma State last Saturday, and a plethora of mistakes and turnovers led many to question whether a single quarterback would lead to more consistency for the team.

urday's game in Stillwater, it was easy to predict what each would do when they lined up under center. Sams came in almost exclusively to run, while Waters primarily threw the ball. Defenses adjusted accordingly, and made life miserable for both of them.

There's no longer any doubt

that this is a rebuilding year for K-State. Both quarterback options bring different skills to the table, but it makes more sense for the program to develop Sams, a redshirt sophomore, than Waters, a junior with only a year of eligibility left after this season.

On Saturday, Sams showed he

could shoulder the workload of a starting quarterback and give his team an opportunity to win games. He made his fair share of mistakes, but that's to be expected from a young guy making what was essentially his first start. He'll grow with experience, and his upside gives the program the best

chance to compete for the rest of this season and the next two. It's time to give Sams the starting job and let him run with it.

Mike Stanton is a sophomore in pre-journalism. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

Collegian Staff Pick ‘em

WHO SHOULD BE K-STATE'S QUARTERBACK FOR THE REST OF THIS SEASON: JAKE WATERS, DANIEL SAMs, OR BOTH?

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sports editor

Mike Stanton
managing editor

Darrington Clark
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John Zetmeir
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Sams

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Games of the Week: Week 7

Tate Steinlage
staff writer



K-State Wildcats vs. No. 15 Baylor Bears
2:30 p.m. CDT, FOX

K-State head coach Bill Snyder enters Saturday's contest well aware of the prolific Baylor offense his squad will be going up against, saying Tuesday in a press conference that "the numbers speak for themselves."

Those numbers include an eye-popping 70.5 average points per game, 432.3 passing yards per game, and 347.3 rushing yards per game. The first two statistics are FBS bests, while the latter ranks second in the nation just behind New Mexico. However, the most impressive number for the Bears is 16.3, the average points their defense has given up in their first 4-0 start since 1991.

Statistics aside, the Wildcats are facing an even more desperate situation after falling to 0-2 in Big 12 play (2-3 overall) with a 33-29 loss to Oklahoma State this past weekend in Stillwater.

If the Wildcats are to play the spoiler role this weekend, it will start with offensive possession, keeping the Bears' high-powered offense on the sideline, and limiting mistakes on both sides of the ball.

If there's anything in the Wildcats' favor leading up to kickoff, the Baylor Bears are 1-7 in road Big 12 games the past two years, including a 36-35 loss to K-State in Manhattan in 2011.

No. 2 Oregon Ducks vs. No. 16 Washington Huskies
3:00 p.m. CDT, FOX Sports 1

The Oregon Ducks are flying higher than ever behind the leadership of first-year head coach Mark Helfrich.

Defeating their opponents by an average of 47.4 points per game, the Ducks will face their toughest challenge on the season Saturday in Seattle, Wash., against a much-improved Huskies squad.

Washington's success has been as balanced as they come, with a rushing attack gaining nearly 260 yards per game, a passing game just short of 300 yards per game, and a defense giving up less than 15 points per contest.

However, Oregon isn't just another opponent at 630 total yards per game. The Huskies will have to control possession to keep Marcus Mariota and the Duck offense on the sidelines, while using the arm and legs of quarterback Keith Price to find the end zone against the second-best defense in the country.

No. 25 Missouri Tigers vs. No. 7 Georgia Bulldogs
11 a.m. CDT, ESPN

The Missouri Tigers will walk in to Sanford Stadium Saturday to face a Georgia Bulldogs squad crippled by a handful of significant injuries.

Georgia moved to 4-1 last week after escaping a near upset-bid by the Tennessee Volunteers, but not without disappointment. The Bulldogs lost second-leading rusher Keith Marshall to a knee injury that will sideline him for the rest of the year, along with their two-most threatening receivers, Justin Scott-Wesley and Michael Bennett.

Missouri, on the other hand, enters the week firing on all cylinders after putting away Vanderbilt early en route to a 51-28 conference win this past weekend. The Tigers are in the top 10 in FBS with 543.8 yards per game and 46.6 points per contest, and will be facing a Georgia defense that has been susceptible to giving up big plays.

The key for Georgia will be the continued play of star quarterback Aaron Murray, who will be taking the huddle alongside some inexperienced faces. Murray will need to make plays while controlling the tempo of the offense throughout the game.

Missouri will look to be balanced offensively, using their run game as a means to set up the big play, in an effort to take down their first formidable opponent of the season.



No. 17 Florida Gators vs. No. 10 LSU Tigers
2:30 p.m. CDT, CBS

Saturday's matchup in Baton Rouge, La. will be a game of opposites. The LSU Tigers enter the contest with their most threatening offense in school history, while Florida has shown that their defense is more than capable of stopping whoever is on their schedule.

The Tigers have found success this year offensively from the arm of quarterback Zach Mettenberger. The senior has already amassed 15 passing touchdowns to just two interceptions, including 11.07 yards per attempt. With the Florida defense anchored by their cornerback play, Mettenberger will likely look to use a shorter passing attack to open up the Gator defense.

However, that won't be an easy task. The Gators are giving up just 12.2 points per game, good for fourth best in the nation. On the other side of the ball, Florida has used a balanced attack to control possession, especially behind the legs of sophomore Matt Jones and junior Mack Brown.

This game is one that looks like it can come down to the wire, but who comes out on top will likely be the squad that doesn't give up the football or field position, especially late in the contest.

No. 12 Oklahoma Sooners vs. Texas Longhorns
11 a.m. CDT, ABC

Saturday's annual Red River Rivalry at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas may get as ugly as last year's 63-21 Sooner blow-out, much to the demise of the Longhorn faithful.

After a controversial week five 31-30 road victory at Iowa State, the Longhorns enter this week's contest at 3-2. The Texas defense is one of the worst in the country, ranked 108th in total defense, while giving up a staggering 28.4 points per game.

Oklahoma, 5-0, has found a groove with first-year starting quarterback Blake Bell. The junior has been aided by a rushing attack that's gone for nearly 250 yards per game, and a defensive side that's giving up just 13 points per game.

If Texas looks to top their rival for the first time since 2009, they'll need to tighten up a defense that's allowed 5.82 yards per play. Oklahoma will aim to pound the football up the gut of the weak Longhorn defensive line, which should free up Bell to air the ball out downfield to his receivers.

No. 9 Texas A&M Aggies vs. Ole Miss Rebels
7:30 p.m. CDT, ESPN

The Ole Miss Rebels will need to find an early answer for Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel or this SEC contest could be over before it starts.

Texas A&M is coming off their first bye week since playing 12-straight games in 2012. The Aggies, despite having one of the worst defenses statistically, have been dominating opponents through the air, averaging 365 yards per game.

If there are any bright spots for the Rebels, it is the A&M defense. The Aggies are giving up 30.8 points per game, while ranking 112th out of 123 FBS teams in total defense at 476.4 yards per game.

For the Rebels to stun the Aggies in Oxford, Miss., junior quarterback Bo Wallace will have to put together a flawless performance, including with his legs on short third down plays.

Collegian Staff Pick ‘em



Sean Frye
sports editor

Baylor
Georgia
Oklahoma
Florida
Washington
Ole Miss

Record:
21-9



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Record:
17-13



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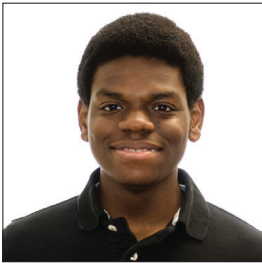
Record:
20-10



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editor-in-chief

Baylor
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Ole Miss

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19-11

POSITIONS | A look at the defensive ends

and he always falls forward for the extra yard. He has the ability to tear open a defense with his legs, the question is how many carries will he get in the two-quarterback offense.

Edge: Seastrunk. Baylor may have the best running back in the country, and if Seastrunk continues to dominate, he may run himself into the Heisman discussion.

DE Shawn Oakman vs. DE Ryan Mueller

Oakman has about as fitting a last name as a defensive line-man can have, standing at 6-9, 275 pounds. The sophomore transfer from Penn State was kicked off the Nittany Lions squad for an incident in which he tried to steal a sandwich from a campus convenience store last year. The mammoth defensive end is trying to put the past behind him now, and is finding success with the Bears. His nine tackles-for-loss lead the Big 12 and is tied for second nationally, showing why there was so much hype surrounding him coming out of high school.

Mueller leads the Wildcats and is sixth in the Big 12 with 5.5 tackles for loss and is tied for first on the team with two sacks. He is the undisputed leader of the defensive line, and works with a tireless motor on every play, whether it is getting to the quarterback or stopping the running back. A former walk-on, Mueller has become one of the biggest leaders on the field for K-State in his junior year. At 6-2, 245, he may not have the outrageous size of Oakman, but he knows how to create a push in the trenches.

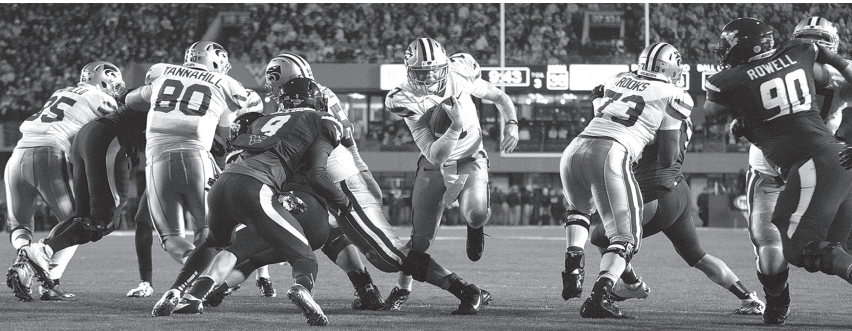
Edge: Oakman. We have not seen much out of Oakman yet, but what we have has been dominant. Both players are in their first year as a starter, and while Mueller has been good, Oakman has game-wrecking ability on the defensive line.

Spencer Low is a senior in political science. Please send all comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

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